

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition comprising a resin system comprising at least one polymeric component, said at least one polymeric component comprises solid thermoplastic resin, at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component and at least one intumescent ingredient, the coating composition being curable to a solid state by free radical polymerisation.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises at least one homopolymer, copolymer and/or terpolymer of a methacrylic resin.
4. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises a meth(acrylate) ~~meth-(acrylate)~~ copolymer.
5. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises the reaction product of at least one of styrene or vinyl toluene together with at least one of any of the following:- methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate t-butyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxy ethyl methacrylate, 2- hydroxy propyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-hydroxy ethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxy propyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.
6. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric component comprises the ~~reaction product~~ reaction product of one or more diene together with at least one any of the following : - styrene, vinyl toluene, vinyl chloride, vinyl acetate, vinylidene chloride and vinyl versatate esters.

7. (previously presented) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component has at least one of a methacrylate or acrylate functionality.
8. (currently amended) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component comprises any of the following either alone or in combination :-methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate t-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.
9. (previously presented) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin system constitutes from 20% to 60% of the coating composition.
10. (previously presented) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one polymeric component constitutes from 10% to 50% by weight of the resin system.
11. (previously presented) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component constitutes from 30% to 90% by weight of the resin system.
12. (previously presented) A liquid intumescent coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one intumescent ingredient comprises an acid source, a carbon source and a gas source.
13. (currently amended) A method of curing a liquid intumescent coating composition to a solid state by free radical polymerisation comprising the step of adding an initiator to the liquid intumescent coating composition, wherein the coating composition comprises at least

one polymeric component, said at least one polymeric component comprises solid thermoplastic resin, at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomeric component and at least one intumescent ingredient.

14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coating is curable on initiation by organic peroxide.

15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the organic peroxide comprises any of the following either alone or in combination :- diacyl peroxides, ketone peroxides, peroxyesters, dialkyl peroxides, hydroperoxides and peroxyketals.

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the coating composition is cured in less than 60 minutes at a temperature of $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$.

17. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein less than 5% by weight of volatile components is lost by evaporation during the conversion of the composition to a solid state by the addition of an organic peroxide.